

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02  
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NSC-05 SIG-02 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MR. CULLUMS  
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS

-----140315Z 062932 /62

O 140021Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
USCINCEUR  
DOD  
NSC  
CIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 13

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EX-  
CERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING  
FOR APRIL 13, 1977:

Q. ON ZAIRE, IN THAT INTERVIEW WITH THE DAILY TELEGRAPH  
PRESIDENT MOBUTU SAID HE RECEIVED AN ASSURANCE FROM SECRE-  
TARY VANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT LET HIM DOWN.  
CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT MR. VANCE HAS SENT SOME SORT OF  
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ASSURANCE, AND CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF IT?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT. AT THIS POINT I CAN'T  
FIND A LETTER WHICH SUGGESTS THAT PHRASEOLOGY. IF I DO,  
I WILL TELL YOU.

Q. COULD IT HAVE BEEN TRANSMITTED IN SOME OTHER FORM --  
THROUGH THE AMBASSADOR?

A. LET ME JUST SAY MY RESPONSE IS THE SAME. I AM NOT  
DUCKING IT. WE SIMPLY DON'T HAVE IT AND I AM NOT SAYING  
THAT IT DOES OR DOESN'T EXIST.

Q. IS THAT A REFLECTION OF AMERICAN POLICY -- THAT WE  
WON'T LET MOBUTU DOWN?

A. I THINK THAT OUR RESPONSE YESTERDAY IS AN INDICATION  
OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT ZAIRE'S INTEGRITY AS A NATION, AND  
OUR CONCERN ABOUT A SITUATION IN WHICH THAT NATION FINDS

ITSELF INVADED BY FORCES OPERATING FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.

Q. THAT LEADS INEVITABLY TO LEBANON, AND ANY GUIDANCE YOU MAY HAVE PREPARED ABOUT SYRIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ATTEMPTED WIPE-OUT OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES ALONG THE BORDER AND THE THREATS OF ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT -- OR MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ON IT?

A. YES. BARRY, I AM GOING TO GET TO THE QUESTION THAT YOU RAISE, BUT LET ME REPEAT SOMETHING FOR YOU. OUR GENERAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOUTHERN LEBANESE SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS. THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND WE CONTINUE TO WATCH IT WITH DEEP CONCERN. WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH ALL THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED: ISRAEL, SYRIA AND LEBANON, AS WELL AS LEADING LEBANESE PERSONALITIES -- NOT PALESTINIANS -- ABOUT IT. THE PRINCIPAL POINT THAT WE ARE MAKING IN THESE CONTACTS IS THAT THE SITUATION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SOUTHERN LEBANON MUST BE STABILIZED AND WAYS FOUND TO BRING ALL OF SOUTH LEBANON UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE CENTRAL LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SARKIS. OUR INFORMATION IS THAT THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, THE LEVEL OF THE FIGHTING LOWERED. WE THINK ALL CONCERNED ARE EXERCISING RESTRAINT. WE BELIEVE THEY HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTINUE THIS RESTRAINT SO THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS CAN BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO BRING CENTRAL AUTHORITY AND PEACE TO THE AREA. WE DO NOT SEE THAT WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL HAD TO SAY CONTRADICTS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT IN PRACTICE ALL CONCERNED ARE EXERCISING RESTRAINT IN A SENSITIVE AREA.

INSOFAR AS SYRIA IS CONCERNED -- AND THAT WAS YOUR FIRST QUESTION I THINK -- WHAT I AM SAYING TODAY IS IN LINE WITH WHAT I SAID THE OTHER DAY. WE HAVE NO REASON TO CHANGE OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON AND TO GO A LITTLE FURTHER WITH THAT, WE STILL HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT PRESS REPORTS OF SYRIAN FORCES OR ARTILLERY INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING.

Q. YOU MEAN SYRIAN ARTILLERY?

A. YES.

Q. WHEN YOU HAVE NO EVIDENCE -- I WILL PROBABLY MIS-PRONOUNCE IT AGAIN, BUT IS IT AL-SAIQA?

A. YOUR PRONUNCIATION IS INEVITABLY GOING TO BE BETTER THAN MINE.

Q. OKAY. BUT, I MEAN ALMOST EVERY ACCOUNT I HAVE SEEN ON THIS -- I HAVE ONE HERE FROM STUART AUERBACH IN THE POST LAST WEEK -- THAT THAT IS ESSENTIALLY A SYRIAN FORCE. ARE YOU SAYING AL-SAIQA ISN'T A SYRIAN-CONTROLLED OR A SYRIAN-DOMINATED FORCE? ARE YOU SAYING IT IS A LEBANESE UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCE OR WHAT?

A. BARRY, WHAT I AM SAYING IS IN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION ON THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND TODAY. OUR RESPONSE IS PRECISELY WHAT I HAVE GIVEN IT TO BE. NOW, THE QUESTION THAT YOU ARE RAISING ABOUT A PRESS REPORT FROM LAST WEEK HAS TO SIMPLY BE ANSWERED WITH WHAT I SAID: THAT WE SEE NO SIGN OF SYRIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT OR THE USE OF SYRIAN ARTILLERY IN THE FIGHTING WHICH WAS GOING ON.

Q. WELL, DO YOU INCLUDE IN THAT STATEMENT THE AL-SAIQA?

A. WHAT THE STATEMENT SAYS IS THAT SYRIAN FORCES AND SYRIAN ARTILLERY.

Q. NO. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THE SYRIAN ARMY -- DOES IT MATTER TO YOU WHAT KIND OF SHIRTS THEY WEAR, WHETHER YOU CALL THEM SYRIANS OR NOT?

A. I HAVE TO STAND ON WHAT I JUST SAID, BARRY.

Q. WELL, THAT IS FINE BUT YOU ARE RUNNING CONTRARY TO EVERY ACCOUNT THAT HAS COME OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND EVERY NEWSPAPER. I MEAN THERE IS NO ONE IN THE WORLD, NO REPORTER IN THE WORLD, IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, WHO HASN'T SAID THAT THE SYRIANS ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN LEBANON.

A. I HAVEN'T TAKEN A COUNT ON ALL OF THE PRESS ACCOUNTS. I HAVE SEEN A FEW, AND I HAVE PARTICULARLY SEEN THE ONE YOU ARE REFERRING TO, AND THE GUIDANCE AND THE INFORMATION I HAVE IS IN RESPONSE TO THAT PRESS ACCOUNT.

Q. LEAVING ASIDE THE INTERPRETATION, HODDING, ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO TELL US WHETHER OR NOT AL-SAIQA FORCES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING IN SOUTHERN LEBANON? UNCLASSIFIED

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A. I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER THAT.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT NOT HAVE INFORMATION?

A. WE HAVE INFORMATION ON THE GENERAL SITUATION FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU, AND OTHERS.

Q. AND THERE IS A DOUBT THAT AL-SAIQA IS INVOLVED?

A. I AM SORRY. I AM NOT RESPONDING TO THAT QUESTION.

Q. COULD YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION, AND PICKING UP ON WHAT BARRY SUGGESTED, WHETHER YOUR STATEMENT OF NON-SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT INCLUDES AS-SAIQA AS WELL?

A. I CAN TAKE THE QUESTION. I AM NOT SURE WHAT THE ANSWER WILL BE, BUT I WILL. I WILL COME BACK WITH WHATEVER ANSWER I GET.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF ISRAELI ARTILLERY OR ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES BEING INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING?

A. I HAVE NONE.

Q. OKAY. SO, THIS BASICALLY IS AN INTERNAL FIGHT IN LEBANON AMONG VARIOUS LEBANESE FACTIONS. I MEAN BASICALLY THAT IS WHAT IT IS.

A. THAT IS HOW WE VIEW THE SITUATION.

Q. HODDING, YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE NO REASON TO CHANGE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SYRIAN ROLE, WHICH YOU SAID LAST WEEK. WOULD YOU SAY NOW AGAIN WHAT YOU SAID?

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A. I AM SORRY. WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK IS ESSENTIALLY -- THERE IS NO DEVIATION FROM WHAT I SAID LAST WEEK.

Q. I PUT A QUESTION TO YOU LAST WEEK -- DID YOU STILL VIEW THE SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON, INCLUDING SOUTHERN LEBANON, AS HELPFUL.

A. HELPFUL, CONSTRUCTIVE.

Q. DO YOU STILL SEE IT AS THAT?

A. WE BELIEVE THEY ARE PLAYING SUCH A ROLE.

Q. HODDING, YOU SAY THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING IS LOWERED IN THAT PART OF LEBANON. DO YOU CONNECT THAT FACT WITH THE WARNINGS MADE PUBLIC BY IS EL?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY CAUSAL CONNECTION TO OFFER. I ONLY HAVE THE FACT THAT WE SEE THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING AS HAVING LOWERED.

Q. YOU ARE DRAWING A DISTINCTION IN YOUR STATEMENT BETWEEN ALON'S PUBLIC STATEMENT AND ISRAEL'S PRACTICES, AREN'T YOU?

A. YOU CAN DRAW YOUR CONCLUSIONS.

Q. SO, YOU DON'T FIND HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS HELPFUL?

A. I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO COMMENT ON HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN THE REGARD THAT YOU ARE OFFERING.

Q. WELL, YOU SAY THAT WE DO NOT SAY THAT WHAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL HAS TO SAY CONTRADICTS OUR ASSESSMENT.

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A. THAT DOES NOT CONTRADICT OUR ASSESSMENT THAT IN PRACTICE ALL CONCERNED ARE EXERCISING RESTRAINT IN THIS SENSITIVE AREA.

Q. WELL, QUITE APART FROM THE PRACTICE, IS HIS SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL IS GOING TO GO ACROSS THE BORDER AND GET THEMSELVES IN A TANGLE WITH SOME VILLAGES, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT?

A. I AM SIMPLY NOT COMMENTING ON THE THRUST OF A SET OF REMARKS EXCEPT WHAT MY OBSERVATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN.

Q. WHO ARE THE "ALL" YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT IN THAT SENTENCE?

A. EXCUSE ME.

Q. IN THE "ALL CONCERNED", WHO ARE THE "ALL"?

A. THE "ALL CONCERNED" IN THAT SENTENCE ARE THE GOVERNMENTS WE ARE TALKING TO: THE SYRIANS, THE LEBANESE AND THE ISRAELIS.

Q. HOW ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS?

A. WE ARE NOT TALKING TO THE PALESTINIANS.

Q. NO. BUT THIS IS A QUESTION OF YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT IN PRACTICE ALL CONCERNED ARE EXERCISING RESTRAINT.

A. THAT IS RIGHT. THE "ALL" REFERS TO THOSE WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO AND URGING RESTRAINT UPON.

Q. BUT IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE PALESTINIANS?

A. THE "ALL" REFERS TO THOSE WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO.  
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WE ARE NOT TALKING TO THE PALESTINIANS. THEREFORE, I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY JUDGMENT ABOUT THE PALESTINIANS?

A. I HAVE NO JUDGMENT TO OFFER ON THE ROLE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE FIGHTING ITSELF.

Q. YOU DO SEEM TO SUGGEST THAT WHAT ALLON SAID CANNOT BE VIEWED AS EXERCISING RESTRAINT.

A. IF YOU WISH TO INFER THAT FROM WHAT I SAID, YOU MAY, BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT I AM TRYING TO IMPLY. I AM NOT ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF THE THRUST OF HIS REMARKS. I'M ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF HOW THOSE REMARKS JIBE WITH THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

Q. YOU HAVE NO COMMENT ON HIS REMARKS?

A. I AM NOT COMMENTING ON HIS REMARKS.

Q. HODDING, I PICKED UP THE POINT WHEN YOU SAID YOU HAVE NO JUDGMENT ON WHETHER THE PALESTINIANS ARE SHOWING RESTRAINT. THAT LEAVES ITSELF WIDE OPEN. WHAT IS THE U.S. VIEW OF THE PALESTINIAN RESTRAINT OR NON-RESTRAINT AT THE PRESENT TIME?

A. AS I'VE SAID, WE BELIEVE THAT THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING HAS DIMINISHED, AND I THINK I'M GOING TO STAY WITH THAT.

Q. YOU MEAN OVER THE LAST -- WHAT -- DAY OR SO?

A. YES. JUST OVER THE LAST PERIOD OF 24 HOURS, OR WHAT HAVE YOU.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO TRANSMIT ALLON'S COMMENTS TO  
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WHOEVER YOU ARE IN TOUCH WITH?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I HAVE NO IDEA. I BELIEVE THAT THOSE COMMENTS ARE WIDELY CIRCULATED, HOWEVER, WITH OR WITHOUT REFERENCE TO WHAT WE MAY OR MAY NOT DO.

CERTAINLY, AS WE HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO INSURE, IN OUR EFFORTS IN THE AREA, THAT ALL SIDES UNDERSTOOD FULLY THE POSITION OF THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS OR THE OTHERS WHO WERE CONCERNED IN THE AREA. WE ARE, OF COURSE, CONTINUING THAT EFFORT, BUT I CAN'T SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THAT QUESTION. I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW.

Q. WELL, DO YOU ARGUE WITH AN INTERPRETATION THAT YOU ARE VOICING QUALIFICATIONS OR RESERVATIONS ABOUT WHAT ALLON SAID?

A. I'M NOT VOICING ANY QUALIFICATIONS, INTERPRETATIONS, ANALYSIS, OR ANYTHING OF THE SORT ABOUT WHAT ALLON SAID. I AM NOT ADDRESSING MYSELF TO THOSE REMARKS, EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU, AND I WON'T GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. WHY DO YOU BRING IT UP IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A. BECAUSE THE QUESTION WAS ASKED OF ME.

Q. NO. I MEAN ALLON. NOBODY MENTIONED HIM.

A. IT WAS MY FEELING THAT IN OFFERING THAT PARTICULAR NOTION I COULD SIMPLY ESCAPE HAVING YOU COME TO ME WITH A SECOND QUESTION. IT IS KNOWN AS BEING OPEN, FRANK AND CANDID.

Q. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNOW, OR CAN IT CONFIRM, THAT ISRAELI JETS HAVE BEEN OVERFLYING -- CONDUCTING UNCLASSIFIED

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OVERFLIGHTS AND, IF THEY HAVE, DO YOU CONSIDER THAT AN ACTIVE RESTRAINT, A PROVOCATION, OR SIMPLY HAVE NO VIEW

OF IT AT ALL?

A. I HAVE NO REPORTS ON THAT, BARRY.



Q. HAVE YOU ANY HELP ON THE NUCLEAR REACTOR STORY?

A. I DO. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY DECISION OF SPAIN TO HALT CONSTRUCTION ON NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS INVOLVING U.S.-SUPPLIED REACTORS AND EQUIPMENT. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WE HAVE ENJOYED MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH SPAIN IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD.

WE HAVE IN RECENT WEEKS BEEN CONSULTING WITH THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF OUR EVOLVING NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICIES.

WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE A COMMITMENT TO THE GOAL OF NON-PROLIFERATION, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING COOPERATION IN SPAIN'S CIVIL POWER PROGRAM.

Q. HOW ABOUT IRAN? THAT'S MENTIONED IN THE STORY IN THE SAME REGARD.

A. YES. NOW, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME THE REFERENCE JUST SO I DON'T GO OFF ON THE WRONG TANGENT? ARE YOU TALKING --

Q. WELL, I DON'T HAVE IT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT AS I RECALL IT-- IRAN BREAKING OFF TALKS.

A. WE HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN ON AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD. THESE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SUSPENDED AT OUR REQUEST AND WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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IRANIAN AGREEMENT SOME MONTHS AGO, PENDING OUR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR EXPORT POLICIES.

WE EXPECT THAT ONCE DECISIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THIS POLICY ARE MADE WE WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS. ONCE AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, AMERICAN FIRMS WILL BE IN A POSITION TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACTS FOR POWER REACTORS.

Q. IS THAT PART OF A GENERAL SUSPENSION ALL OVER OR DOES THAT JUST APPLY TO IRAN THEN?

A. WE ARE ATTEMPTING AT THIS POINT, IN CONSULTATION WITH EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS FIELD, TO EXPLORE WHAT OUR POLICY IS GOING TO BE. IT IS A GENERAL -- AND NOT JUST AIMED AT ANY ONE COUNTRY -- EVOLUTION OF POLICY. AND WHEN IT'S MORE FIRMLY IN HAND, AS THIS STATEMENT SUGGESTS, WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO PROCEED.

Q. YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A GENERAL POLICY, BUT WHAT I'M ASKING IS WHETHER THE SUSPENSION ONLY APPLIED TO IRAN OR WERE OTHER PEOPLE'S TALKS ALSO SUSPENDED?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES WE WERE HAVING TALKS WITH ABOUT PARTICULAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AT THE TIME THE GOVERNMENT DECIDED WE WERE IN THE MIDST OF EVOLVING A NEW POLICY.

Q. WELL, I DON'T KNOW EITHER.

A. YES.

Q. I'M JUST WONDERING THOUGH IF IRAN SOMEHOW WERE PARTICULARLY TARGETED BECAUSE OF SOMETHING HAVING TO DO WITH IRAN BECAUSE OF THE --  
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A. NO. I WOULD EMPHATICALLY REJECT THAT NOTION AS TO IT BEING TARGETED TO IRAN FOR ANY PARTICULAR REASON. WHAT I CAN FIND OUT IS WHETHER OR NOT THIS KIND OF DISCUSSION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OR WHETHER IN FACT IT WAS AN ONGOING DISCUSSION WITH OTHER PEOPLE. AND I WILL TELL YOU.

Q. LET ME FOLLOW UP ON THAT. IF YOU'RE SUSPENDING WITH IRAN BECAUSE OF YOUR REVIEW, YOU HAVE TAKEN NO ACTION TO SUSPEND WITH SPAIN? YOU'RE WILLING FOR THAT TO GO ON, TO GO AHEAD?

A. I'M NOT SURE THE TWO ARE THE SAME BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT THEY'RE IN DIFFERENT POINTS OF PROGRESS. ONE IS AN ONGOING PROCESS WHICH IS ALREADY INTO THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE, AS I RECALL. THE OTHER IS ONE WHICH HAS TO DO WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE ACTION AND --

Q. I SEE -- SO THAT THE REVIEW WOULD APPLY ONLY WHERE THERE HAS BEEN NO CONSTRUCTION.

A. YES, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TAKE TOO BIG A LEAP ON THIS BECAUSE I'M NOT POSITIVE ENOUGH TO TAKE YOU THERE. I'D RATHER CHECK. AND IF YOU'D GIVE ME A RING, OR IF ANYBODY ELSE IS --

Q. I HAVE ONE MORE QUESTION, IF I MAY: WHEN DID THE REVIEW BEGIN AND OVER WHAT TIME PERIOD MIGHT --

A. THIS IS THIS ADMINISTRATION'S REVIEW, SO YOU'D HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT IT BEGAN JANUARY 20TH. INsofar AS THE COMPLETION DATE ON IT IS CONCERNED, I HAVE NOTHING ON IT -- BUT THIS IS PART AND PARCEL OF THE OVERALL NUCLEAR REVIEW WHICH HAS ALREADY INCLUDED OUR INITIATIVE  
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THAT CAME OUT LAST WEEK -- AND THERE WILL BE OTHER ASPECTS, I'M SURE, BUT I COULDN'T EVEN GUESS WHAT THEY MAY BE.

Q. WAS THE SUSPENSION OF THESE TALKS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED? I DON'T RECALL THEM AT THAT POINT.

A. I DON'T KNOW, KEN.

Q. CAN YOU FIND OUT IF THIS IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL DISCLOSURE OF THIS?

A. T YES, SURE.

Q. THE STATEMENT ON IRAN IS MISSING, THAT HELPFUL CAVEAT HOW BOTH COUNTRIES SHARE THIS GOAL. DO THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN SHARE THAT MARVELOUS GOAL OF NON-PROLIFERATION? I INVITE THE INCLUSION OF THAT -- THROWAWAY LINE, IF YOU WANT.

A. I WILL GIVE YOU A RESPONSE TO THAT INVITATION. I DON'T HAVE ONE WITH ME RIGHT NOW.

Q. HODDING, ON THE MIDDLE EAST. THE CARTER-ASSAD MEETING, WHEN IS THAT TO TAKE PLACE, PLEASE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS AN ABSOLUTELY FIRM TIME, AND I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU A TIME UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THEY HAVE IT. I WOULD SUGGEST ON A CARTER-ASSAD MEETING THAT, IN ANY CASE, THAT WILL BE RELEASED BY THE WHITE HOUSE.

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING FOR APRIL 8:

Q. JODY, DOES THE PRESIDENT AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT  
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THAT THE PLO HAS GROWN MORE MODERATE? AND, IF SO, HOW

DOES HE FEEL IT HAS BECOME MORE MODERATE?

Q. WHOSE STATEMENT IS THAT?

Q. SADAT?

MR. POWELL: I HAVEN'T HEARD HIM EXPRESS HIMSELF ON THAT.  
WE ARE OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF VARIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION  
WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL WITHIN THE PLO.

Q. DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE PLO?

MR. POWELL: WE ARE CERTAINLY AWARE OF THE PUBLISHED  
REPORTS OF SUCH. I HAVEN'T HEARD ANY OFFICIAL  
EXPRESSION OF --

Q. TO WRAP IT UP, OUR POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED -- WE  
DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH THEM -- HAS IT?

MR. POWELL: OUR POSITION, WHICH HAS BEEN STATED ON  
SEVERAL OCCASIONS, IS THAT WE CAN SEE NO CONSTRUCTIVE  
ROLE FOR THE PLO AT GENEVA SO LONG AS THEY CONTINUE TO  
REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST IN  
PEACE, AND IT HAS NOT CHANGED AT ALL.

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## Message Attributes

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